

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An exercise apparatus, comprising:

a frame designed to rest upon a floor surface;

a left crank and a right crank, wherein each said crank
5 is rotatably mounted on the frame;

a left guide and a right guide, wherein each said guide
is mounted on the frame for movement in oscillatory fashion
relative thereto;

a left connector link and a right connector link, wherein
10 each said connector link has a first portion movably connected to
a respective said crank and a second portion movably connected to
a respective said guide;

a left foot supporting link and a right foot supporting
link, wherein each said foot supporting link is operatively
15 connected to a respective said connector link;

a left intermediate link interconnected between the left
crank and the left foot supporting link in such a manner that a
heel portion of the left foot supporting link does not initially
rise at a faster rate than an opposite, toe portion of the left
20 foot supporting link as the left foot supporting link begins moving
forward from a rearwardmost position relative to the frame; and

a right intermediate link interconnected between the
right crank and the right foot supporting link in such a manner
that a heel portion of the right foot supporting link does not
25 initially rise at a faster rate than an opposite, toe portion of
the right foot supporting link as the right foot supporting link

begins moving forward from a rearwardmost position relative to the frame.

2. The exercise apparatus of claim 1, wherein each said intermediate link is a floating crank link.

5 3. The exercise apparatus of claim 1, wherein each said intermediate link is a roller.